OPE Pocket No.: 0010-1108-0 CONT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE APPLICATION OF:

Yoko ASAKURA, et al.

: EXAMINER: RAMIREZ, D.M.

SERIAL NO.: 09/577,005

FILED: MAY 25, 2000

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

FOR: METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING AMINO ACID PRODUCING BACTERIAL

STRAINS, AND METHOD OF PREPARING AMINO ACIDS BY

FERMENTATION WITH THE CONSTRUCTED AMINO ACID PRODUCING

BACTERIAL STRAINS

## AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action of February 10, 2004, in the above-identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begins on page 2 of this response.

Support for the Amendments begins on page 6 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this response.